



Quality of Life  
CHALLENGE

Proud recipients of  
a 2006 award from  
the Quality of Life  
CHALLENGE !!  
(qolchallenge.ca)

# Victoria Street Newz

## June 2008

“All  
the  
news  
that  
fits,  
we  
print”

Vol. 5  
No. 3



photo: Susan Draper - May 3rd BC wide Stand for Housing

**Sold by  
donation**  
**vendor cost:  
50 cents**

**Inside this issue ...**

<b>Opinion .....</b>	<b>pg 2</b>
Just Another Rant .....	Janine Bandcroft
Global Warming & Economy .....	Sue & Jim
<b>Regional Newz .....</b>	<b>pg 3</b>
Canwest Bullies .....	Seriously Free Speech Committee
The Road No-One Wanted .....	T'Soeur
<b>9/11 Newz .....</b>	<b>pg 4</b>
Unanswered Questions .....	Gordon Pollard
<b>Assorted Newz .....</b>	<b>pg 5</b>
<b>Local Street Newz .....</b>	<b>pg 6</b>
Spring Has Sprung .....	Red
Walk 4 Justice .....	Jennifer Hastie
Demythologizing Poverty .....	W. Robert Arnold
<b>International Newz .....</b>	<b>pg 7</b>
Look Closely .....	Brian Mason
Remembering Fadel Shana .....	Mohammed Omer
<b>Fictional Newz .....</b>	<b>pg 8</b>
A Trap of Boobies (from Potshots) .....	Hal Sisson
<b>Olympic Newz .....</b>	<b>pg 9</b>
A Brief History of the Olympics .....	Maryann Abbs
<b>Indigenous Newz .....</b>	<b>pg 10</b>
Celebrating Colonialism .....	C'Daoim
Dear Couz .....	Jennifer Hastie
<b>Street Muzings .....</b>	<b>pg 11</b>
<b>Street Newz Supporters .....</b>	<b>pg 12</b>

**Thanks for your support!!**

### That’s Not What ‘Housing First’ Means

by Kalanu

On May 3rd, in over 80 locations around BC, citizens concerned with the growing crisis of homelessness in their cities held a one hour silent vigil on various street corners.

Protestors in Victoria will have likely read the news in the day’s mainstream fishwrap that the city is making moves to protect the Janion Building, a 117 year old former posh hotel that has sat vacant for many years.

Like the Woodward building in Vancouver, the Janion building has stood like a monument to our society’s inaction to help the homeless, its vast interior capable of housing dozens of people, yet more have died outside its boarded up windows than have ever

been allowed inside.

The city proved its resolve to keep homeless people out of the building in 2006 by sending in police in wth tear gas to remove a lone homeless person, only hours after he had let himself in.

The building stands just two blocks down from the Streetlink Homeless shelter, and many of the city’s homeless pass the building every day, wondering whether it might ever be opened up to provide shelter to those who need it.

How naive of us though, to think that housing the poor would ever be a priority in this or any other North American city. Politicians and

continued on page 2 ...



# About Street Newz

Coordinator: Janine Bandcroft  
Deliveries: Nancy Raycroft  
Distribution Coordinator: John Chomyn  
Advisory Committee: Brian Mason, Colin Dower, Jennifer Hastie, Lisa Helps, Chris Cook, James Rowe, George Simich, Kim Fagerlund

Founded in 2004, Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (if possible, for confirmation) and may be edited for length. You can publish using a pseudonym, or anonymously.

We are devoted to a triple bottom line philosophy - concerned about our environmental and social, as well as financial well-being.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the Victoria Street Newz team, by pondering the root causes of poverty, and by working for peaceful, non-violent change.

Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of Victoria Street Newz, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers. Please don't reprint without author's permission, and please credit the source.

Victoria Street Newz is printed on 100% post consumer recycled paper with vegetable ink, at Horizon Publications - [www.horizonpublications.ca](http://www.horizonpublications.ca), 604-254-8840.

Victoria Street Newz is a proud member of the North American Street Newspaper Association and the International Network of Street Papers. The mission of NASNA is to support a street newspaper movement that creates and upholds journalistic and ethical standards while promoting self-help and empowerment among people living in poverty. INSP is an umbrella organization that provides a consultancy service for its partner papers, advises new street papers, and supports initiatives for marginalized people. Visit NASNA at [www.nasna.org](http://www.nasna.org) or the INSP at [www.street-papers.org](http://www.street-papers.org).

**Submissions (due by the 1st Friday for the next month's issue), letters, or donations can be delivered to our mailbox at:**

**1027 Pandora Ave  
Coast Salish Territory  
Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P6**  
**or leave a message at  
250-383-5144 ext 0137**  
**[streetnewz@islandnet.com](mailto:streetnewz@islandnet.com)**  
**[relativenewz.ca](http://relativenewz.ca)**



## JUST ANOTHER RANT

by Janine Bandcroft



On June 15th, I depart for Cuba, on a humanitarian aid mission with Pastors For Peace ([pastorsforpeace.org](http://pastorsforpeace.org)). I don't know precisely what I'll find there, but I know that I won't see public transit co-opted by MacDonald's .....



I've been told there's no corporate advertising in Cuba - no selling of public school lands for private profit, no corporatization of rivers and hydro for profit, no for-profit health care. Imagine! While despots like 'Advertising Standards Canada' spend who knows how much money buying ads in corporate newspapers, attempting to convince us to "believe what you're about to read" because "truth is an essential part of any successful ad campaign," I'll be witnessing Cuba's oil independent co-operative agricultural solutions and congratulating, as best I can, people who have defied corporate imperialism for my entire lifetime. I know Cuba's system isn't perfect, but neither is ours!

This journey, intentionally defying the 46 year old blockade (starvation campaign), is definitely the most personally courageous thing I've ever done, except for the time I stood in silent vigil inside a military encampment during Navy Days at Ogden Point, where I was scorned for my radical attempt to protect my right to do that sort of thing by actually doing it.

I'll be gone for two months and, thanks to the magic of technology, plus Brian, Colin, Jennifer and the rest of the Street Newz crew, the newspaper will continue as always. I'll be sending the July paper to the printer before I leave, and I can construct the August Newz from a friend's home in Austin Texas in Travis County (which didn't vote for George Bush even though he was formerly their Governor). If the American or Mexican authorities trash or steal my computer, you'll be seeing the Vancouver 'Megaphone' in vendors' hands for a while until I can get things back to normal. Have a groovy summer!

## That's Not What Housing First Means ..... continued from cover page

property owners would rather wait for the big development dollars than put themselves out to help deal with a public disaster.

The article in the day's paper describes the big-hearted feelings that the city has for this behemoth of brick and mortar, far more regard that it seems to have for people who must face the elements day after day, hungry, sore and tired.

This is not what we mean when we say 'Housing First.'

Property is worth more than human lives, is the message we see day after day. We seem to spend more policing and protecting these buildings than we do helping to house people.

Victoria is lucky in that we still don't have the same kind of poverty stricken and crime ridden neighbourhoods that you'll find in Vancouver, Toronto and Winnipeg. Those kinds of problems are on their way though, if we continue to deny the scale of the crisis we face.

It's still not too late to start respecting people's dignity. The pay-off for such a gesture as respecting people's constitutionally protected right to security of person is worth far more than what it may cost. The costs of dealing with the kind of city we'll have given our current trajectory are beyond calculation.

Vancouver's solution to the poverty and despair of the Downtown Eastside is a virtual bombing of the area. The gentrification machine that is the 2010 Olympics is

transforming the country's poorest neighbourhood into yet another ghetto of luxury condos. Affordable housing is being created only to house a fraction of those displaced.

This is not what any reasonable person should want to see happen in their city. It breeds addiction, disease, desperation and contributes to a general social decline that can touch

anyone's life. The streets of this city are still safe to walk down at night. They won't be for long if we allow them to fill with frustrated, desperate people with few options for survival.

Report after report continues to be published explaining very clearly that it is cheaper to house people than to provide homeless-related services. Yet inaction, apathy and even cruel ignorant treatment is our response to the growing number of homeless.

Ask anyone on the street if they ever expected to end up where they are. If you take the time to talk to people like human beings that they

are, you may be shocked and frightened to believe that many once had careers and families and the same kind of scorn for homeless people that we see leveled at us every day. Don't wait until you're on the street yourself to change your attitude.

The Victoria Historical Society wants city council to take whatever steps possible to save the Janion building. I say, let's all take whatever steps possible to stem the homeless crisis that is growing and claiming lives by the hundred, right here in our picture postcard city.

-in solidarity with all life,

Kalanu

[treesit.blogspot.com](http://treesit.blogspot.com)  
[bullsheet.wordpress.com](http://bullsheet.wordpress.com)  
[pedaltopetal.blogspot.com](http://pedaltopetal.blogspot.com)



## OPINION Global Warming vs Economic Growth & Free Trade

by Sue Hiscocks & Jim Wight  
[AboutClimateChange.com](http://AboutClimateChange.com)

Economists shudder when they hear about limiting growth. Well here we are with Global Warming smack in our faces. We are told that we need to get our food locally and stop shipping stuff all over the world. The question now must be asked. Does economic growth trump Global Warming or does Global Warming trump Economic growth? Is there really any choice?

We use fossil fuels to create inland irrigation and maintain fish farms. The fish farms are to produce meal for animal use and to ship expensive white table cloth fish to the rest of the world. Eighty percent of the fish farm product is exported. Should we be importing labour so we can ship to the rest of the world? This means more stress on our environment. Our fisheries are a mere shadow of itself and commercial fishing where it is "every man for himself" will soon cause extinction of the fisheries.

Contamination of the wild stocks by fish farms is further adding to the problem. It used to be that Fishing licences were for a specific area of a river. In that scenario fishermen looked after the fishery and made sure it wasn't over fished. Native chiefs used to be responsible for the sustainable harvest of fish. Since the liberals opened it up

for any number of fishermen to fish wherever they wanted the sustainable approach has been destroyed. The fishing industry uses 50 billion liters of fuel/yr.

Offshore aquaculture is expensive. Governments are now beginning to zone the continental shelf for privatization and investment. Four of five fish farms here are owned by foreign interests. We should return the fish industry back to the way it was supply only local demand. We will all need to live on food that can be grown locally and forget about unlimited growth to supply the rest of the world. To compensate the economic loss we need to produce more at home instead of importing.....down with NAFTA!

It is one thing to throw money at expensive research that won't be realized til it is way to late. It is another to cap our emissions and reduce the fossil fuel use to a minimum. There a multitude of things that can be done to reduce greenhouse gas other than throwing money at the problem.

--Fishery info from lecture at Camosun College by John Volpe called "Fished to Death - An Examination of the Collapse of Global Fisheries, and How We Can Save Them"



## Seriously Free Speech: Canwest Trying To Bully Briemberg

In December 2007 Canwest launched an unprecedented civil lawsuit against a prominent [Vancouver based] solidarity activist. In this direct attack on freedom of expression, Mordecai Briemberg is named as a ‘Defendant’ along with 6 anonymous persons.

In June 2007, marking the 40th anniversary of the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, an anonymous group produced a parody edition of Canwest’s Vancouver Sun. Canwest is pursuing this legal action despite their written admission that they have no documentation connecting Briemberg with the production of the parody. His only connection was to pick up some copies at a public meeting and hand them out.

In 2003, Izzy Asper, Canwest’s founder said “In all of our newspapers...we have a very pro-Israeli position...we are the strongest supporter of Israel in Canada.” As a result, Canwest Global, the largest media corporation in Canada, consistently engages in biased reporting on the Middle East. Canwest’s actions are an attempt to bully and silence criticism of Israeli government policies.

This constitutes a SLAPP suit – Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation – a legal technique used by the rich and powerful to bully critics and shut down public discussion by threatening dissidents with huge legal costs and broad prohibitions against speaking out. Canwest’s campaign is a significant attack on the right of free speech! If they can bully Mordecai Briemberg they can bully you!

The Seriously Free Speech Committee was formed to defend Mordecai Briemberg and to fight for the right of free speech. We do not advocate for any particular analysis of the issues concerning Israel and Palestine, nor a particular resolution of the conflict. We need open and public discussion of these issues so that the Canadian people can reach their own conclusions. We believe in free speech and fair play!

Just weeks old, our campaign is gaining momentum! We need your help to do more!

### What you can do to help

- Visit our website – [www.seriouslyfreespeech.ca](http://www.seriouslyfreespeech.ca) – to read our full leaflet, the writ, and to sign the online petition demanding Canwest drop its groundless lawsuit and stop persecuting Mordecai Briemberg.
- Help get this information out to friends, family and networks.
- Write to Canwest c/o their lawyer to demand that they drop the lawsuit: David Church, Church & Company, 900-1040 West Georgia Street, Vancouver British Columbia, V6C 3H4. Please copy the Seriously Free Speech Committee with your letters.
- Join the Seriously Free Speech Committee.
- Encourage your organization to adopt resolutions or issue statements critical of Canwest’s actions and in support of the SFSC campaign, copied to [info@seriouslyfreespeech.ca](mailto:info@seriouslyfreespeech.ca). For examples see ‘Support’ page at [www.seriouslyfreespeech.ca](http://www.seriouslyfreespeech.ca).
- Contribute financially to support the campaign and help defray legal costs. Cheques should be made out to ‘Seriously Free Speech Committee’ and sent to PO Box 57112, RPO East Hastings St., Vancouver V5K 5G6.

### Honourary Members of the Seriously Free Speech Committee:

Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, John Pilger, Avi Lewis, Linda McQuaig, Edward S. Herman, Omar Barghouti, Tariq Ali, Irene MacInnes, James Petras, Gabor Mate, Cy Gonick, Ivar Ekeland, Joel Kovel, Michael Lebowitz, Justin Podur, Marta Harnecker, Emmanuel E. Rozental, Ilan Pappé, Joy Kogawa, Bill Fletcher Jr., The Rev. Robert Assaly, Badri Raina, Murray Dobbin, Cameron Ward, Sid Shniad, Diana Ralph, Michael Mandel, Bonnie Klein, Carl Rosenberg, Bill Pegler, Bill Saunders, Mark Leier, Dr. Federico Allodi, Hilla Kerner-Soliman, Tim Louis, Dr. Sally Mahood, Dr. J. F. Conway, David Diamond, Jamelie Hassan, Anton Kuerti, Blair Redlin, Sister Elizabeth Kelliher, Reverend Beverly Faust, Maurice J. Freedman, Ali Abunimah, Dr. Hari Sharma, Judy Rebick, Michael Byers, Thekla Lit, Nurit Peled-Elhanan, Haifa Zangana, Satinath Sarangi, Bill Siksay, Libby Davies, Sunera Thobani, Todd Wong, Dr. Qais Ghanem, Dr. M. I. ElMasry, George Heyman, Harsha Walla, Rachad Antonius, Brian Barton, Gregory Baum, Normand Baillargeon, René Charest, Michel Chossudovsky, David Fennario, Malcolm Guy, Robert Jasmin, Raymond Legault, Serge Mongeau, Lorraine Pagé, Jean-Marc Pottier, Sid Chow Tan, Chris Spannos, Jon Elmer

### SERIOUSLY FREE SPEECH COMMITTEE:

PO Box 57112, RPO East Hastings St., Vancouver V5K 5G6  
Website - [www.seriouslyfreespeech.ca](http://www.seriouslyfreespeech.ca) Email - [info@seriouslyfreespeech.ca](mailto:info@seriouslyfreespeech.ca)

## The Road that No-One Wanted; The Road that Never Should Have Been

by ‘T Soeur, and reprinted with permission from [pacificfreepress.com](http://pacificfreepress.com).

I write this as the grand arbutus forests are crashing down the steep slopes all around us. It is Langford. In the midst of self-proclaiming “Mass Wasting” (just a development strategy - a style) one lost ravine, almost a canyon, deserves mention.

“The Powers that Be” once again acted in defiance of the wishes of long-standing residents along this “so-called” roadway just off Florence Lake Road. Many have lived there for decades on the shores of Florence Lake. And, they clearly expressed their opposition to development; to roads, and driveways, and to wide paved cement “trails” in the ravine just behind them and immediately adjacent to their properties.

### Martin Road: A Eulogy

The people there would NOT have objected to a narrow footpath through the ravine as a nature trail. They expressed and documented their concerns over a period of several months - repeatedly and properly - with all due respect for city officials and “process.” They are very knowledgeable about the land they have all known and loved so well for so many years. This was disrespected.

So, typically, yet another mass development scheme was rammed through in Langford. 5 houses? 17 houses? or more?

It was a plan designed to benefit only the developer, (or developers) at the expense of the long established residents and their investments of time and improvements to their properties over the years - again destroying the peace and security of citizens who originally came to Langford because of the beauty and tranquility of the natural landscape that surrounded them.

The road was cut halfway through without even the most basic environmental, archeological, hydrological, Karst and geological, geo-technical studies which should have been mandatory and extensively carried out before even considering development of any kind in this type of sensitive and irreplaceable ecological zone.

Too expensive? Then just do the right and sensible thing: Just leave it alone.

“Martin Road” used to be a narrow wooded ravine running alongside a steep natural bluff. It was one of the last remaining natural and healthy waterways, feeding directly into Florence Lake. Otters lived there. There were grand arbutus trees and fir trees and Garry Oak meadows, with a magnificent understory

of native plants and wildflowers. It was habitat for bats and many varieties of birds. The waterway extended from the cat-tail pond, which was the home of the vocal little tree frogs, (at the corner of Setchfield Road and Fleetwood Court) winding all the way down to the lake.

Elegant Little Salamander Cave, named for one of its inhabitants, was in the centre of it all.

Near the lake stood a majestic, old arbutus tree - an ancient landmark of infinite cultural significance. It was one of those unforgettable, and one of the most exquisite arbutus trees you would see in the Greater Victoria area. The kind of tree you would see in a Nature calendar. Repeatedly, even during the aggressive clear-cutting and rock smashing for the road, residents were assured that tree would be saved.

It was not.

It was said there was an ancient Cairn nearby. Many knew of it. But it no longer exists. It was smashed; pulverized and destroyed on the first day of clear-cutting.

The natural waterway from the pond to the lake is blocked by the massive rock-rubble road construction. The pond is completely cut off now: Landlocked.

The moss covered bluff, and naturally sculpted rock formations, are smashed and cut and gone. It is now a monstrous, gaping eyesore, visible from the road. It is only so much worse for those who live there and remember how beautiful it once was. They have to look out their windows at the scars every day, and live with the memories of “Paradise Lost” on their doorstep.

Langford’s “smash and burn” mentality leaves demoralized and exhausted citizens with a ruined landscape and a permanent legacy of massive heaps of broken and blasted rock - “trails” along featureless drainage ditches, and everywhere more and more naked cement and vast, crude, man-made flatlands.

The songs of Life were once heard everywhere in the little ravine they now call

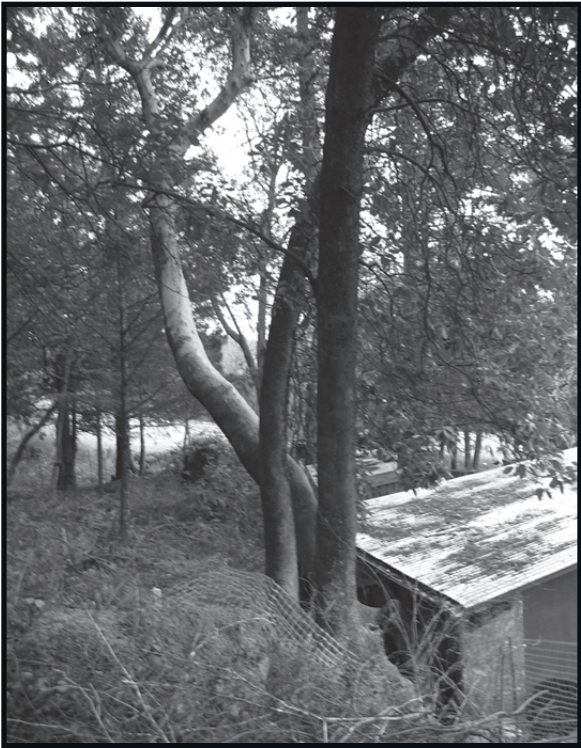
Martin Road: the chorus of tree frogs; the songs of birds, from raven, to robin, to wren; the buzz of hummingbirds; the whisper of the wind in the tall trees.

The songs of Life can no longer be heard there.

In truth, there are those who hear the echoes

of the screeches of the pain and grief from the living and the dead there, in the now barren, lost little ravine.

*Photos: Arbutus Tree, before and after. “One thing to note in the photo of MY TREE,,,the ugly orange fencing clearly was behind this tree,,,meaning it was in the so called “safe” zone, and not to be touched at the time. Then again, they just cut down every living thing, so why should I have believed this special tree would be spared?*





by Gordon Pollard

With almost seven years having passed since the shocking events of September 11, 2001, I think it is high time honest answers be provided to the many persisting questions about what really happened that day. For example:

\* How could alleged hijacker Abdul Aziz Al-Omari have crashed American Airlines Flight 11 into the North Tower of the World Trade Center when he is reportedly still alive and working as an engineer in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia?

\* How could alleged hijacker Saeed Al-Ghamdi have crashed United Airlines Flight 93 into a field in Pennsylvania when he is reportedly still alive and working as a pilot in Saudi Arabia?

\* How could alleged hijacker Salem Al-Hamiz have crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the side of the Pentagon when he is reportedly still alive? And how could he have boarded

a plane at Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C., that morning when it appears he has never set foot in North America in his life?

\* How could alleged suicide pilot Hani Hanjour, who had been unable to successfully fly a Cessna-172 on a routine training flight, have taken the controls of a Boeing 757 jetliner and attacked the Pentagon by executing a 270-degree turn at 500 miles per hour and descending 7,000 feet in 2.5 minutes, skimming across treetops for the last 500 meters?

\* How could anyone have crashed a Boeing 757 jetliner into the side of the Pentagon and left a hole in the wall only 18 feet in diameter?

\* Why have all of the tapes from the 40 rooftop security cameras around the perimeter of the Pentagon and from cameras mounted at the Sheraton Hotel, Citgo gas station and a pole on Highway I-135 across from the Pentagon been suppressed? Why can't we view these tapes so we can see what really happened that morning at the Pentagon?

\* How did the four hijacked planes manage to fly across a large swath of the US Northeast and Midwest for a total of almost two hours on September 11th without being intercepted by fighter jets even though, according to Federal Aviation Authority records, each of the 67 planes with which contact had been lost in US airspace from January 1st to September 10th had been successfully intercepted in less than 15 minutes?

\* Why did none of the alleged hijackers' names, nor even any Arab names, appear on the passenger lists for any of the four planes hijacked on September 11th?

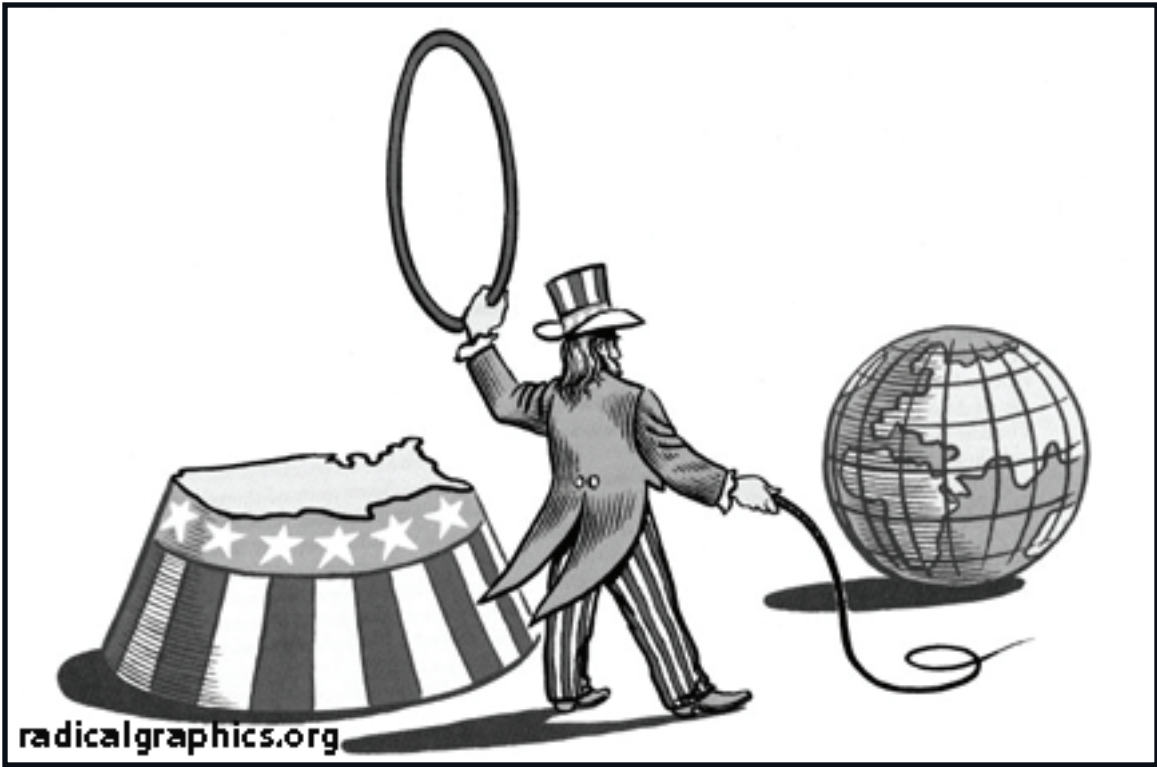
\* How was it possible that fires fed by jetliner fuel, which burns at a maximum temperature of about 1,700 degrees Fahrenheit, could cause the collapse of the Twin Towers, each of which was supported by 47 enormous columns and 240 perimeter beams of solid steel, which requires a temperature of at least 2,800 degrees Fahrenheit to melt?

\* Why did the 9/11 Commission totally ignore the extensive tests and research carried out on the collapse of WTC Buildings 1, 2, and 7 by Brigham Young University physics professor Steven E. Jones? Was Dr. Jones correct in concluding that the quick, near-symmetrical collapse of these buildings could not have been caused by fire and impact damage, and that the buildings were almost certainly brought down by controlled demolition using high-

temperature "cutter-charge" explosives such as thermite, HMX or RDX?

\* Why has it not been widely publicized that two of the principals in the company responsible for security at the World Trade Center buildings were President George W. Bush's brother Marvin and cousin Wirt Walker III?

\* Why does the official report of the 9/11 Commission make no mention of the testimony of William Rodriguez, a maintenance worker who was the last person to emerge alive from the North Tower and who says he heard a series of small explosions along the walls which sounded like detonations of pre-positioned explosive charges?



\* Why did WTC Building 7, a 47-story, steel-frame structure near the Twin Towers, collapse more than six hours after the towers were attacked even though Building 7 had not been hit by any aircraft and the fires that broke out in Building 7 were considerably smaller than those in neighbouring Buildings 5 and 6, which did not collapse?

\* Why has there been no explanation as to what was happening on September 11th on the 23rd floor of Building 7 in the "emergency command centre" which had been operating there since June 1999, to respond to and manage possible terrorist attacks?

\* Why did the 9/11 Commission refuse to consider the analysis by former German Research and Technology Minister Andreas Von Buelow, who concluded that the 23rd floor command bunker in Building 7 appeared to be the "optimal place" from which the "attack planes" could have been guided into the Twin Towers using remote-control technology?

\* Since the situation concerning Building 7 seems vitally important to understanding what happened on September 11th, why is there no mention of the collapse of Building 7 anywhere in the 571 page official report of the 9/11 Commission?

\* How could the passport belonging to alleged hijacker Satam Al-Suqami have magically survived the fiery crash of American Airlines Flight 11 into the North Tower and be "found" in relatively good condition amid the rubble after the tower collapsed?

\* How was it possible fortunes were made on the stock market in the days immediately preceding 9/11 by unknown investors who correctly predicted there would be a sudden, dramatic change in the stock of the four companies most adversely affected by 9/11 (American Airlines, United Airlines, Merrill Lynch, and Morgan Stanley)? Was this, as Dylan Ratigan of Bloomberg News asked, "the most extraordinary coincidence in the history of [hu]mankind" or was it "insider trading of the worst, most horrific, most evil kind"?

\* Why has it not been widely publicized that a number of experts who have examined the grainy video in which "Osama bin Laden" confesses to responsibility for 9/11 believe the video is a fake and are convinced the man shown is "an overweight impostor" who bears very little resemblance to the Osama bin Laden of earlier photos and videos?

\* Is it true, as has been reported by several European

journalists, that America's supposed number one enemy, Osama bin Laden, spent the first two weeks of July 2001 being treated at the American Hospital in Dubai and that he met during that time with the CIA's station chief for the region, Larry Mitchell?

\* Why has it not been widely reported that the US decision to take military action against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan was made two months before 9/11 because the Taliban refused a demand by a consortium of US oil companies to let them construct hydrocarbon pipelines across Afghanistan from the oil and gas fields in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan through Pakistan to the Indian Ocean -- mainly to supply Enron's multi-billion-dollar power plant at Dabhol on India's west coast?

\* Why has there been no official consideration of the hypothesis put forward by Professor David Ray Griffin and other 9/11 researchers that the 9/11 "attacks" were orchestrated by high-level US officials to gain public support for a "war on terrorism" to advance US military and economic interests in the Middle East and to justify a crackdown on dissent within the US as well as a massive increase in spending on defence and "homeland security"?

Gordon Pollard, who conducts opinion polls for "Victoria Street Newz" during federal and provincial elections, is a native of Victoria and has a BA from the University of Victoria and a MA from Columbia University in New York City. After working for 10 years as a journalist in BC, Alberta, and Ontario, Gordon spent 20 years teaching English and History in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, and Sri Lanka.



## HOMELAND FOOD SECURITY DISASTER ALERT

Whereas, the economic systems intended to provide security of person in this country are collapsing with those of other fossil fuel dependant nations, thereby creating barriers to food accessibility for many people in Victoria,  
**Homeland Food Security declares a state of emergency.**

Henceforth, all pre-consumer food waste will be re-distributed free of charge to those in need.

Supermarkets and other food retailers are instructed to no longer place unsalable food into dumpsters, but to allow volunteer food security workers to collect the food for redistribution.

All citizens are encouraged to volunteer for Homeland Food Security by approaching supermarkets, requesting food, and distributing it to those they determine to be in need.

This is an urgent state of emergency, and if retailers cannot be convinced of this, volunteers are instructed to liberate food from the dumpsters behind the supermarkets.

Countless tonnes of safe, nutritious food are being sent to landfill every day, while thousands of Victorians lack access to a proper diet. This food would be more than sufficient to deal with the growing food crisis that is occurring in our city.

Food is a basic human right, yet our current economic infrastructure has proven ineffective at ensuring the protection of these rights. Thus, this state of emergency shall remain in effect until such time everyone in this city has stable access to a proper nutritional diet.

In the meantime, all citizens of Victoria are requested to assist in the distribution of food in whatever way possible, and

**NO MORE EDIBLE FOOD  
SHALL BE THROWN AWAY!!!**



# Homes For All!!

by Phil Lyons

On parade day in Victoria, the Committee to End Homelessness joined with the Students Against War and Canada Out of Afghanistan Campaigns to bring notes of the real world into the mix.

Members of the Committee held up banners like “HOMES FOR ALL” and “54 people a year die on the streets in Victoria.” The SAW folks held signs making the link between no money to build housing, and the huge costs of war in Afghanistan.



The people along the street gave applause to the activist marchers and joined in chants such as “WHAT DO WE WANT” (answer - “HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS”) and “WHEN?” (answer - NOW!).

Although police intervened with the Students Against War activists, the only intervention on the Committee to End Homelessness by the police was a bike cop who commented to a marcher, “You guys are really juvenile. You’re spoiling the parade for the onlookers.” WRONG!! if you go by the positive response from the crowd.



## David Johnston’s Diary

My ire gets raised by the simplicity that most miss, so I remember we can only be reflections of our experience and all the people engaged in corrupt acts just do not know better. I do not want to waste your time with a journal account of my psyche, so I’ll get to the point...

JUNE 16TH, 2008- begins a five day trial to determine, constitutionally, if the Corporation of the City of Victoria’s anti-camping bylaws are ok. At the end of the five days the judge may or may not reserve their ruling. If it is ruled that the bylaw is not constitutional it will make way for sanctioned tent-cities in every municipality in Canada. If it is ruled constitutional the court officially reveals itself to be a terrorist. Either way there will be action.

The ‘Crown’ will continue with the demonic spin-doctoring thing, maybe trying to delay the trial yet again... as far as I can see, five days after whenever this trial happens I will stand against the ‘Crown’ in the name of God and life and truth and it would be best if all would stand with me.

Patience be with us all. It begins with a love of truth... as long as a person holds any notion of pride being virtuous they cannot know themselves. Better start thinking grand because life is. Patience be with your ego.



### How many politicians would feel comfortable standing among this crowd?

On May 21st, two busloads of harm reduction advocates travelled from Vancouver to attend BC’s legislature. MLA Jenny Kwan greeted them outside the building, and then escorted them inside for the session.

Advocates suggest that, with 60,000 diagnosed with Hepatitis C in British Columbia, it’s time the authorities took seriously their concerns for harm reduction.

After the group went inside the building, a plane flew by with a banner which read “TELL HARPER INSITE SAVES LIVES.”



Tim Rourke (tar@qaz.ca) wrote: Here is more about the ‘crate house’ or ‘hobbit house.’ A few years ago John Sewell was promoting them as a solution for homelessness. He showed us one set up in a church parking lot. It even had a chemical toilet.

It is another variant on the “single room occupancy” idea Jack Layton promoted a few years ago too. All of it is just a glorified rooming house. People need more than just a bed. They need their own kitchen and washroom at least. They need at least 300 feet of space for themselves.

If you had mobile housing units with these amenities in it, this becomes an acceptable housing solution for single people, students, etc. People who do not need a lot of space. But it is definitely not for everyone.

And the problem, as Sewell found out a few years ago, is where to put these things. They have to be in serviced ‘parks.’ If they are not managed properly, they will become crime centers.

For more info: [www.resourcesforlife.com/mobile-hermitage](http://www.resourcesforlife.com/mobile-hermitage)

## In Previous Issues ....

In your most recent column in the Street Newz, you said you know someone who knows someone who works for the ministry of employment and income assistance, and he’s getting paid less than the advertised wage for the job, because of some old union agreement. If he’s getting paid less then the advertised wage, it’s because that’s all the boss wants to pay him, not because of a union contract. The ministry negotiated that contract, and I’m sure they weren’t insisting on paying more money to people, and the union and its members insisted on less. I’ve never heard of a people going on strike because the boss was trying to pay them too much.

Irregardless of this, when someone who has a union contract advertises for an employee and puts the wrong rate, it’s their fault, not the union’s. And they sometimes like to say it’s an “old” contract. Like it was just sitting around forgotten since the 1930s, and suddenly was discovered and they have to abide by it, they have no choice. They’d like to pay the person more, but their hands are tied. These contracts are renegotiated constantly, and the bosses know exactly how much they’re paying everyone.

Most people aren’t familiar with how collective bargaining works, and they believe an employer when they say they’d like to pay them more, but the union won’t let them, when they themselves, the employer, negotiated the terms with the union. If they advertise a higher rate than the agreement says, it’s fraudulent. They knew, or ought to have known, in fact they’re legally obligated to know, that they couldn’t pay that rate when they advertised it.

Gordon, in Vancouver

Apologies to Charmaine White Face, (Zumila Wobaga), a member of the Oglala Tetuwan (the Great Sioux Nation), former college instructor, writer, and coordinator for Defenders of the Black Hills, whose article titled “Pacifying the Public” was published in the May Street Newz. A technical error omitted her website -- [www.defendblackhills.org/joomla](http://www.defendblackhills.org/joomla)





Red Again ....  
  
Spring  
Has  
Sprung!!

Finally, it's here! After a wet and cold winter, we're starting to warm up. I have seen a lot more skin as the winter clothes are coming off. The women in this city are some of the most beautiful people I have the pleasure to see and meet ... and their children. I'm also glad to see the green and flowers, plus the buds. Victoria has a nice mix of people that are a pleasure to see and talk to since I've been in this city. It's still small compared to some of the places where I've been while crossing Canada. I lived in the largest city in Canada but to my own surprise I found that the smaller the place, the more kindler people seem to be. I'm really happy that there are still places where people are accepted no matter the way you look, dress, walk, etc. People in general just like anyone who are normal human beings, and would like to be treated the same way. I hope you all remember the old saying "TAKE TIME TO STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES!" Have a good one, Thanks, Red.

### AVI's Needle Exchange Services

As most people know, AIDS Vancouver Island will stop doing needle exchange at our site on Cormorant Street as of May 31. We have not yet found a new site, but will continue to look for a new location for the needle exchange. Beginning May 26, AVI will be operating a trial mobile needle exchange, which will be offered on foot in the downtown core each afternoon, and by van after 6:30pm. The route will travel from Herald St. along Government St. along Rock Bay Ave. and back along Douglas St. to Herald St. It will include one confirmed stop point on Princess Ave. near the corner of Government St. The vehicle route will have No Service Zones, which will include schools, daycares, open businesses, and faith organizations. If you flag down the mobile in one of these areas, they will stop and ask you to meet them in an area where they can provide services. Services provided through the mobile will include the distribution and exchange of needles, condoms and other harm reduction supplies. The program staff will, when possible, provide treatment information, referral services, and prevention information (e.g. safe sex, vein care). Twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons, AVI will host education sessions at the former needle exchange, where you can also come to see the street nurses.

### The Advocate: Demythologizing Poverty By W. Robert Arnold



I have heard many people blame the poor for their poverty. This is one way to avoid having to take some responsibility for poverty and having to do something about it. These people often referred to bad decisions they assume poor people have made. They have actually believed the mythology and are spreading it to the detriment of poor people. Rich people are not often rich because of the good decisions that they make; but because they have the luck to have been born into a rich family. It is very rare that people become rich through their own work or effort; and when that happens, it is mostly a matter of luck. In fact the self-made man is lucky he didn't step off the curb at the wrong time or contract some awful tropical disease. The decisions he has made have only proven to be right after the fact. Mostly the decisions are made when things can go either way and luck has gone his way. One of the larger segments of poor people is single mothers, who are thought to have made a bad choice by getting pregnant without being married. Many of those mothers were married and had to leave abusive relationships or were divorced by husbands, who wanted a later model. I am told that 50% of marriages end in divorce. When ex-husbands pay as little as they can in child support, single mothers end up being very poor. Women do not always decide to get pregnant. Birth control sometimes fails no matter how careful one is. Old people are very apt to be poor, especially older women, who have lost their breadwinners and must live on meagre pensions. They have not spent enough time in the labour market to get large CPP checks or good pensions. They have spent their time working in the home and raising children and are all too often very poor as a result. Deciding to drop out of school and not to attend university is sometimes cited as one of the bad decisions made by poor people. Dropping out of high school is quite often not a decision so much as a survival tactic. It often coincides with the decision to leave an abusive home. Sometimes, children have to go to work to help the family survive as well. With the cost of going to university as high as it is there is no decision involved in not attending for children of parents, who are poor. It is impossible for too many. It is ironic that the decision to attend university can also make someone poor. During one's education, unless one's family is rich, one must live on student loans, which leaves the student living below the poverty line. Then, when the student graduates he or she is in thousands of dollars of debt. Sometimes, if the person is unlucky this debt is never paid off. Sometimes the best of decisions just don't work out. A university degree is no guarantee of a well-paying job; and indeed, some people are not hired because they are overqualified for the job they want. I know a doctor of psychology who ended up tending bar for a living. That is no way to get out of poverty. Some wealthy people become poor because of addictions, family illnesses, unlucky gambles and business failures. Most of these are not based on bad decisions either. It sometimes seems to me that everyone knows a poor person and thinks they know the reason for that person's poverty. I keep hearing people give examples of their friend, whom they seldom name, who for some assumed reason is poor. The reason is usually the person's own fault. Unfortunately, the speaker has usually not gotten to know that friend well enough to understand how they became poor. It is often very hard for poor people to explain how they became poor because it is made a shameful thing to be poor in our society. When I could not find a job in 1965 and first went on welfare, I too was ashamed to admit publicly that I was in that position. Then I learned that capitalism needs poor people and that that was the real reason I was actually poor. I got angry, which replaced the shame and started doing things I could be proud of. I learned that poverty is seen as a crime in our society and that the punishment for that crime is welfare. Once someone becomes poor it is very difficult to climb out of poverty. The hurdles are immense and the odds are stacked against us. Furthermore, governments help us with the task less and less as time goes by. Governments give big tax breaks to rich people and their corporations and outright gifts of millions to businesses, while cutting back on income assistance and social services that help the poor survive. If there are bad decisions made that create poverty for people they are made by governments, not the individuals involved. Robert is a 65 year old man who has fought poverty, his own and others, for over 45 years. He is President of the National Anti Poverty Organization, where he helps the voices of poor people be heard in the halls of power.



**Thumbs Up to the Belfry Theatre who, for the past couple of years, have offered their recyclables to local binners Beetlejuice and Beast.**  
**Thumbs Down to whoever keeps stealing Beetle's bike trailers!**  
**He'd much prefer to be a carbon neutral binner but, thanks to Tony (Tonystrailers.com), is able to get those bottles to the depot anyways.**

### Walk 4 Justice by Jennifer Hastie

One of our very own Street Newz vendors, Rose Henry, has taken on a major task in order to publicize the on-going disappearance of more than 500 native women. She is joining two other courageous native volunteer activists from Vancouver - Bernie Williams and Gladys Radek. Together, these women will be walking across Canada to Ottawa. From this walk it is hoped that the government will pay more attention to the disappearance of women, mostly aboriginal, from all over B.C. and the prairies. The problem has not gone away with the arrest of Willie Picton; women continue to go missing. Rose begins her walk on June 19 at 7 a.m. from Mile Zero. She needs cash donations and pledges of money for each kilometre that she walks. The group needs food, car maintenance in the form of gas and oil, first aid kits, good walking shoes and camera equipment. Please contact Rose at rose@homelessnation.org if you can help. She needs our support.





# Look Closely

by Brian Mason

I don't usually think of myself as being in the slavery business, yet I am. So are you. You cannot avoid it if you live in a rich country like Canada. But whereas slaves of earlier centuries lived on your property, today's dwell safely out of sight in faraway lands.

When something is out of sight, it is also pretty much out of mind. Factory farming is one such example. Most of its horrible abuses are just far enough down the road, off the main highways inside windowless slaughterhouses, for us to pretend they don't happen. All we're allowed to see are neatly packaged styrofoam cuts in the meat section of supermarkets. Hardly any different is the deceptive practice of hiding forest clear-cuts behind narrow "beauty strips," thin rows of trees left standing along the roadside to fool you. Don't look too closely, it all seems to be saying.

None of us, I can safely presume, is into the business of chattel slavery. We don't own our slaves, at least not directly. Corporate go-betweens perform this nasty, on-site business on our behalves. And maybe nobody "over there" owns them in the strictest sense of the word, either. Yet the workers in poor countries who produce all of our stuff in overseas factories and fields are heavily exploited and controlled, with threats of dismissal, punishment and violence never far off.

Think back to last Christmas. Remember those \$2.99 boxes of individually-wrapped mandarin oranges from China? Ever wonder how they could be so inexpensive and how little the agricultural workers were paid or how badly exploited? More recently, courtesy of free trade under NAFTA, I came across avocados from Mexico at 49 cents each. That's grown, harvested, boxed, shipped, warehoused and retailed for less than half a buck. The only thing "free" in this scenario was the exploitation.

China Blue, screened during last November's Amnesty International film festival at UVic, showed the desperate situation of workers – mostly young women – in a particular blue jeans factory in China whose products were destined for consumers in rich countries. The workers were living in a company-owned dormitory adjacent to the factory, ate there in a communal dining room, working unimaginably long hours at the dictates of their bosses. Pay, following deductions for room and board, tardiness and other punishable behaviour, was often withheld for months as a form of control to discourage workers from leaving. Exploited, strict living conditions, little or no net pay, drastically limited freedom, no safe way to present grievances, and an expectation to work on demand: it's wage slavery, just another evil face of corporate imperialism.

Sometimes, though, the slaves do appear on our home shores – such as when they're on their way to begin a two-year stint as a "Wendy girl". This was a new term to me when I first heard it on a CBC news program a few months ago. Canadians don't want to earn lousy wages flipping burgers, so the fast-food industry has negotiated a tidy, exploitative arrangement with immigration authorities. "Eager and willing" workers can now be imported from poor countries for up to two years to do the work that few Canadians want to do. While in Canada, the lives of these temporary workers are the responsibility of their new employer, who must provide housing and "guidance."

This situation, while attributed to demographically-caused labour shortages, is promoted as a way of improving the lives of these unfortunates from far-way countries – much like chattel slavery was seen to benefit the primitive peoples of Africa (helping to civilise them, after all). Later, after no longer than two years in Canada, the "Wendy girls" are returned to their country of origin unless an extension of their stay can be arranged. It's limbo on the installment plan in the neighbourhood of the rich.

Slavery has evolved to fit the economic and political needs of elite classes. Global capitalism merely traded chattel slavery for the wage variety, while at the same time moving it offshore.

Picture, if you will, that China Blue factory setting up in a neighbourhood near you. Would you want your daughter working there? Would you tolerate its presence? Would you stare down the abuses taking place, or avert your eyes as we do in the case of factory farms and clear-cut forests? I prefer to think the reception would be different with the jeans factory, though maybe that's unlikely. Perhaps it doesn't really matter whether exploitation lies just over the horizon, or not. Whenever an abuse has helped perpetuate our comfortable lifestyles, we have mostly looked the other way.

Brian Mason is a writer and philosopher living in James Bay.

# MIDEAST: Just The Place To Be, And Not To Be

By Mohammed Omer

GAZA CITY, Apr 18 - Fadel Shana just had to go to the scene of the Israeli bombing. As a Reuters cameraman, that was his job. He wasn't the only one killed, but through his pursuit of attacks as they happen, he was always more at risk than most others.

Fadel Shana was killed Wednesday because he was in the firing line, but also because, eyewitnesses said, he had begun to film the tanks that were firing. A barrage of metal shrapnel pierced his body as a tank missile landed close to him.

Fadel Shana, 23, had been injured in August 2006 in the north of the Gaza Strip in an Israeli missile attack. This time he wasn't lucky enough to survive.

After the first missile that killed Fadel, a second tank missile directly hit the Reuters vehicle in which Fadel had been travelling, killing two children and another civilian close by, and injuring 12 others, including five children. Wafa Abu Mezyed, 25, a Reuters sound man, was injured.

The Reuters silver coloured Mitsubishi SUV carried 'TV' and 'Press' stickers in English and Arabic prominently across its doors, hood, and roof. And yet it was attacked more than once. Agency-France Press photographer Mohammed Abed who was driving behind said the vehicle burst into flames after the second missile struck it. "I saw the body and head of my friend and colleague torn to pieces," he said, visibly shattered by the loss.

Fadel Shana was among many journalists and photographers who had come to film the children and civilians injured by earlier Israeli air strikes and tank shelling. At least 20 Palestinians have been killed since dawn on Wednesday, among them Fadel and eight children.

Abu Mezyed said that after filming some children, Fadel turned to film Israeli tanks. That was when a tank immediately fired a missile in his direction, killing him.

Journalists have long been targeted in the region. Since September 2000, Israeli forces have killed nine journalists, and have wounded at least 170 others.

Reuters has 70 journalists and other members of the media in Palestinian and Israeli areas, 15 of them in Gaza. Last October, a Reuters photographer was injured by Israeli occupation forces close to the Erez crossing.

The killing of Fadel Shana has raised new concern among Gaza's journalists. The Fatah party which runs the administration in the West Bank has called the killing of journalists "assassinating the truth." Hamas spokesperson Fawzi Barhoum said "the Israeli occupation targets journalists in order to kill the truth."

The Palestinian Journalists Union announced a strike on Thursday in protest against the killing of journalists. Reuters editor-in-chief David Schlesinger called for an investigation. "This tragic incident shows the risks journalists take every day to report the news. All governments and organisations have a responsibility to take the utmost care to protect professionals trying to do their jobs," he said in a comment posted on the agency website.

"Our thoughts are with his family. We request an immediate investigation into the incident by the Israeli defence forces." The group Reporters Without Borders also called on Israeli authorities "to quickly investigate the circumstances that led to the Reuters cameraman's death."

Israel apologised for the killing of Fadel Shana, and pledged to investigate the circumstances of his killing.

Thousands attended the funeral of Fadel Shana Thursday. With his body was carried another stretcher bearing his camera.

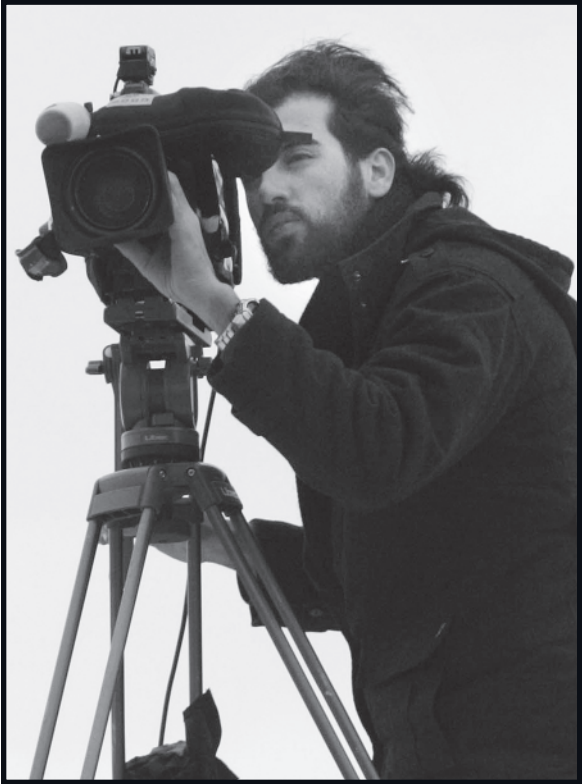
But the attacks continue, for others to suffer, and still others to film. The attacks on Juhor al-Dik village, east of Bureij refugee camp have injured 35 people, at least eight of them critically. The injured include 17 children and a woman, according to the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR).

And there is not enough fuel for ambulances to get to the injured. Some of the injured have been brought to hospital on donkey carts.

The latest Israeli assault follows what the Ezz al-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, an armed wing of Hamas, called a "sophisticated ambush" in which three Israeli soldiers were killed.

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said on Wednesday: "We are aware of the suffering of the people of Gaza, but in our eyes, the suffering of the residents of communities that border on that area, and those of the Israeli army count more."

Reprinted with permission from Mohammed Omer, a student living in Rafah.



## CAN YOU HELP MOHAMMED?

Mohammed is 22 years old and living in a refugee camp. He recently wrote this: "I am OK, but stressed out for now. Life is hell. So much pain and things to do and deal with. Janine, can you please check if you can find me MA scholarship for one year in International Relations? I was hoping to go to US, Canada or any English speaking country, but only for one year, because I need to come back and support my family. I should leave. My stomach and body hurts. It's painful. I am in much pain and I am not able to sleep."





*“A great story that takes on a couple of society’s taboo subjects –  
pot and prostitution – with wit and style.  
-- Peter Zaza, author, Chaos in the New World Order --*

Excerpted from Hal Sisson’s newest novel ...

A Trap of Boobies

On Friday afternoon, the two ossifers of the Canadian Moundies, John Potts and Joe Kerr, were approaching the Malahat, the only highway out of Victoria going up over the hump to the northern part of Vancouver Island. John was driving. Joe, the taller and older of the two, was ostensibly in charge, in that he did less work than John – a usual sign of authority. It was a warm day and the air conditioner in the van was blasting cold air.

“There’s one helluva draught in here,” said John, unaware he had forgotten to do up his fly. The radio played a country tune, mostly whining and complaining.

*I was drunk the day my mum got out of prison,  
I went to pick her up in the rain,  
Before I could get to the station in my pickup truck,  
She got runned over by a damned ol’ train.*

“I bet when he went to get his pickup truck, the battery was dead,” John commented.

“Hope they play something more cheerful soon,” said Joe, staring out the window.

The radio broadcaster was not about to oblige, playing some achy-breaky numbers instead: You’re the Reason Our Kids Are Ugly; If the Phone Don’t Ring, You’ll Know It Was Me; and I Don’t Mind Goin’ Under, if It’ll Get Me Over You.

“Turn it off,” Joe ordered.

“Okay. Say, how are you getting along with the new female recruits, Iona Bond and Rhoda Dendron?”

Joe snorted. “The Dickless Tracys? Not so hot. No sense in trying to date them. But here’s something positive. I got permission from the chief nut, Acorn, to park the truck at Duncan division and bring it back Monday.”

John brightened considerably at the news. “Good on you, Joe. Means we can spend the weekend up here in new territory.”

“Exactly.”

“I hear there’s a couple of good night spots and a big dance on Saturday night. Maybe we’ll get lucky and pick up a couple of hot chicks.”

“And it wouldn’t hurt our chances if we were to borrow a bag of the cargo, would it?” Joe could usually get his brother officer to follow his lead. “Before it gets consigned to the incinerator. Pity to burn it all.”

“Now, hold on a second,” John protested. “A whole bag would be too dangerous. Where would we keep it? And if we got caught, we’d be goners from the Force or working someplace where it’s colder than the hairs on a polar bear’s bum.”

“You’ve got a point. But maybe one of the bags gets torn and we take only enough for the weekend.”  
“Yeah, that could happen, all right.”

At one time, the town of Duncan had been even smaller, and before that, there had been no Duncan at all. Those days were gone and now there was a plentiful supply of Duncan.

Gaston Ready turned the stolen vehicle off the Allenby Road onto Koksilah and then up the dead-end lane that led to the incinerator. The remote location ensured the local dopers couldn’t get a noseful of the funky smell that continually emanated from the place. With Gaston were Neale Downe, Ann Kerzaway and Gas’s other recruit, Helen Hunt.

The women had dressed to bring a smile to any man’s face and a tilt to his kilt. They knew that the pursuit of women is the engine that drives the train of civilization. Birds and whales had it easy because they got hot and bothered only once a year. Human males however, seemed to be horny 24/7.

The heist crew was counting on the young Mounties to like their women big: big hair and big breasts, a jiggling assortment of C and D cups tethered beneath tight-fitting cotton tops. In case the cops turned out to be ass men, the women had also donned hip-hugger shorts and a mini-skirt respectively, with thong underwear.

The main expense for the job had been the rental of good wigs. Ann became a redhead and Helen stayed a blonde, but with longer hair. Ann’s shorts were so tight she looked like she had been poured into them and forgot to say ‘When.’ You could read the embroidery on Helen’s panties: Help! I need resuscitation. High heels and lots of leg were de rigueur, together with an attitude big and brassy enough to stop a truck.

A short way up the lane, near the stream, they parked the van so that it blocked the right side of the road, and Ann stood at the front of the vehicle, which had its hood up. She was ready to jump into the left lane so the approaching driver would have no choice but to stop.

Neale took a position in the bushes by the side of the road and pulled a balaclava over his face. Gaston went back up the lane a few hundred yards and did the same. He was to come up behind the vehicle when it stopped.

They didn’t have to wait long for their quarry.

“You were so ugly when you were a baby, they had to hang a pork chop around your neck to get the dog to play with you,” said Joe Kerr, by way of general conversation as they swung onto the Koksilah Road. “Oh yeah?” John shot back. “If you look up ugly in the dictionary, you’ll find your picture in the margin.”

They continued to insult each other to pass the time as they turned into the lane leading to the incinerator. “Lord love a duck, John, do you see that!?” Joe suddenly exclaimed.

A stalled van blocked one lane, while a gorgeous redhead stood beside it, frantically waving them down. “We’re not supposed to stop,” John said, but he applied the brakes nonetheless and rolled to a stop some twenty yards short of the sexpot occupying the center of the road.

“Looks like her van broke down,” said Joe. “I’ll go check it out.” As he approached the woman, Joe was aware of nothing but tits and teeth, as she welcomed him with a big smile. “Officer, am I glad to see you! I hope you’re mechanically minded. Maybe you can tell me what’s wrong with this stupid old van.”

Joe feasted his eyes on the lovely crumpet and remembered what he and John had been planning for the weekend. “I guess it can’t hurt to have a quick look.”

As he walked forward, another gorgeous girl stepped out of the van. “I’m Charlotte,” said Ann, “and this is my girlfriend Harriet. What’s your name, officer?”

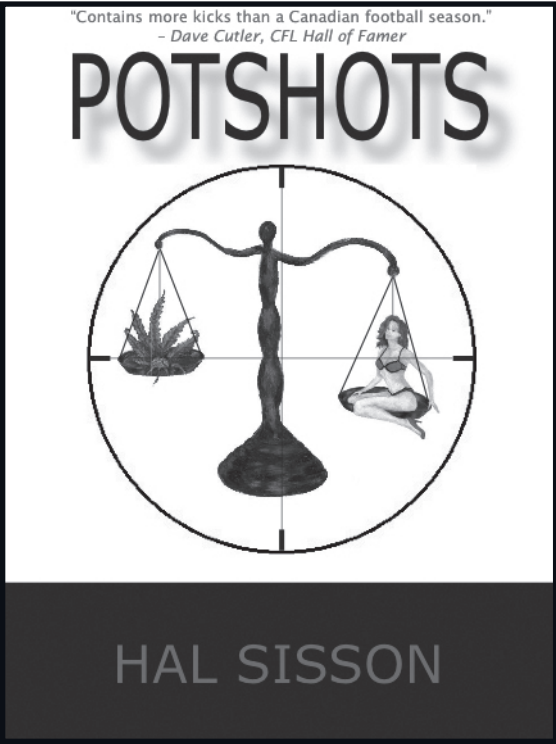
“Uh, well, it’s Joe. Glad to meet you, girls. I’d better take a look at the motor.” Joe proceeded to do just that. John watched from the driver’s seat of the truck. Helen waved and sashayed a few steps toward the truck, beckoning John to come out. He hesitated, but couldn’t refuse the offer. He opened the door and stepped down.

Gaston came out of the bushes and quietly ran up behind John, grabbed him by the shoulders, spun him halfway around and delivered a dim mak strike to the cop’s throat. Potts dropped to the ground like a felled ox.

Helen ducked into the van and grabbed a pad of chloroform from the back seat. Ann bent closely toward Joe, her boobs in his face as he searched the engine for loose wires or whatever might be wrong with the vehicle. Her nearness wasn’t helping his concentration.

Neale emerged from the bushes and ran toward Joe. Kerr caught a glimpse of a hooded figure, rudely brushed Ann aside and went for his gun. Unfortunately, he wasn’t an old Western gunslinger, not even a Gene Autry. It generally took a Mountie several seconds to get his sidearm out of his holster. Before Kerr could draw, Neale was on him like ugly on a gorilla, and they got locked in a ding-dong dust-up. Ann plunged into the fray and tried to kick Joe in the gonads as he spun to the ground. She missed but caught him in the arse with the pointed toe of her shoe.

Joe was hurtin’ for certain, and violent language and angry shouts ripped and reverberated through the



bucolic air. “Help! Mayday!” Joe yelped, then changed his mind and shouted, “John! John, it’s a trap. Drive outa here. Get the hell out with the truck.” But John was hors de combat in la-la land. “Freeze,” screamed Joe, trying to apply his police training. “You whoreson bastards are all under arrest!” But no one obeyed and only the birds heard the cacophony.

Gas joined in, and they overpowered the deputy-do-right, but not before Joe had torn off Neale’s balaclava. At exactly that point, Helen slammed the pad of chloroform over Joe’s face as the two men held him down.

When Joe had stopped kicking, the little gang dragged him back to the police vehicle, removed the keys from John’s closed fist and unlocked the rear compartment of the truck. Gaston climbed behind the wheel, coasted to the side of the road behind the van and told the girls to start transferring the processed bags of pot into the truck.

Gas checked to make sure John was still breathing. He was happy to have learned to pull his dim mak blows enough to cause only unconsciousness. He had no desire to become a cop killer. Neale and Gas administered chloroform to John Potts, then wrestled both limp bodies into the front seat of the police truck. They cuffed the officers with their own handcuffs and left them there.

When the van was fully loaded with the loot, Gaston pulled a U-turn and hightailed it from the scene of the crime. Their mission accomplished, the robbers’ joy was unrefined, and they headed for the hills like big-assed birds.

There was a short pause, then a longer one. The two merged together so you couldn’t tell the difference. Ann spoke up, “Where to now?”

“We get back down over the Malahat before someone finds those jokers and brings them around,” said Gaston, checking the speedometer to see that he was traveling at the speed limit but no faster. “Then what?” asked Ann.

“Its best you girls know as little as possible about that,” said Neale. “You go home, lie doggo and act normal until we finish this deal. We have to sell the stuff and stash the money. It’ll take a little time, because I’m waiting to get some information before we make the sale. Once it’s all over, we’ll pay you two off. Don’t worry, it’ll all work out.”

“It better,” said Helen, who wasn’t as trusting as the other three.

Ann removed her make-up and wig, then put on a pair of horn-rimmed glasses. Helen discarded her own wig and pulled on a pair of slacks. Soon they bore little resemblance to the highway sirens Charlotte the Harlot and Harriet the Chariot.

Victoria based Hal Sisson (halsisson.ca) is a Lawyer, Marble Collector and Player, and Author of *The Big Bamboozle; Caverns of the Cross; Coots, Codgers and Curmudgeons; A Fat Lot of Good; Garage Sale of the Mind, Maquiladora Mayhem; You Should Live So Long, Sorry ‘Bout That, A Fowler View of Life, and Modus Operandi 9/11.*





by Maryann Abbs

Those who promote the Olympics are interested in power, prestige and profit. Developers and construction companies stand to benefit from the public money spent on road construction and new sports facilities. Politicians get to preside over a large-scale spectacle. But what will the rest of us get from the five-year lead up to the Olympics? What will be the real legacy of the Olympic games?

Politicians and business leaders are quick to promise that the Olympics will not lose money, and that people will not be pushed out of their homes by rent increases, but we can see from the experience of other cities that these promises have not panned out - they are simply a strategy to try to co-opt those opposed to the Games.

In searching the historical record, it is hard to find anything good to say about the Olympics. There are, however, some very good reasons to oppose the Games:

1. Massacres and Concentration Camps: the Bloody History of the Games

The modern Olympics have walked hand-in-hand with political repression and violence.

The 1936 Olympics in Berlin (held despite a call from the Jewish community to boycott the games) actively promoted the Nazi regime. IOC members who opposed holding the Games in Berlin were dropped from the organization. Witnesses reported that there were more swastikas on stage at the opening ceremony than Olympic flags. By the time the Games opened, a concentration camp was operating just half an hour’s journey from the Olympic site. As well, the Nazi regime initiated the modern Olympic torch relay as a way of promoting fascism throughout Europe.

Hundreds of people (mostly students) were massacred by a special forces unit called the Olympia Brigade in the Tlateloco Plaza in Mexico City ten days before the Olympics began in August 1968. A recently declassified document written to President Lyndon Johnson reported that “... the current tensions in Mexico City point toward the possibility that the Olympic games will be used as a focal point for demonstrations and actively favoring leftist, subversive, and militant radical elements.” Other documents show how the US Government directed the FBI to actively investigate any Americans planning to go to Mexico to protest the Olympics. These documents show that there was active pressure on Mexican President Diaz Ordaz to quell any student rebellion before the start of the Games.

Repressive laws and security build-ups are hallmarks of recent Olympic Games. The Games have been used as a convenient cover for permanent repressive laws and to create new police and military units. In Sydney there were four cops for each athlete at the Games for a total of 35,000 police and security guards, 4000 troops and elite commando units, and Black Hawk helicopters.

The Sydney Olympics were also used as a pretext to allow the Australian government to introduce permanent legislation that allows the military to be called out to quell domestic unrest. Steve Martin, the Labour Party’s Defense Critic, called the Olympics the “catalyst” for the bill. The Olympics Arrangements Act was passed giving the police the unfettered use of cameras and recording devices, and the powers to prevent the distribution of materials, and the powers to search and detain people in both Olympic and public spaces.

2. Racism and Racial Profiling

Increased Olympic security has also led to the increased racial profiling of immigrants and people of colour by both police and immigration authorities. During the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, police cordoned off the mostly black neighborhood surrounding the Olympic Village and required identification from everyone entering or leaving the area. There was a similar lock-down of the Black community in Atlanta during the 1996 games.

During the 2004 Athens Olympics, Islamic communities in Greece were subjected to state

surveillance of places of worship, and mass document checks and inspections. A spokesman for the Greek branch of Amnesty International warned that “security for the 2004 Olympics is used in Greece as a pretext to systematically break international treaties on the right to refugees.”



3. Grandstands not Homes: The Olympics Create Homelessness

In Salt Lake City the government planned to create 2500 new units of affordable housing - only 150 units were created. There was a 300 per cent rent increase in some residential hotels. In the year before the Sydney Olympics, there was a 400 per cent increase in tenant evictions. In Atlanta, Project Homeward Bound gave Atlanta’s homeless a one way ticket out of town before the Olympics began. In Calgary, the government promised to create low-income housing. None was created - only a few new university residences were built.

In B.C., Jack Poole has promised social housing and no displacement. But Poole’s track record is not exactly stellar - former Vancouver mayor, Gordon Campbell gave Poole land, virtually free, for the creation of affordable housing. No affordable housing has been created.

4. Skyrocketing Public Costs

The B.C. Olympics will have a costly price tag of more than six billion dollars - money much better spent on housing and healthcare. The Olympics shouldn’t be a spending priority at time when the provincial government is slashing funding to social supports, and refusing to provide low-cost housing. No modern games have ever made money when



all costs are included: public money, land transfer, infrastructure and security. The current bid includes costs of 1.7 billion dollars in highway upgrades- \$600 million each from the Provincial and Federal governments. Rapid transit will cost 2 billion, and staging the games themselves will cost 1.3 billion dollars. Interestingly, security (\$560 million in Salt Lake and \$1.5 billion for the 2004 Athens Olympics) is left out of the official costs.

Host cities have taken on huge debts to stage the games. The debt for the 1976 Montreal Olympics was finally paid off in 2002. Calgary took on a \$910 million debt, Barcelona a \$1.4 billion debt, and Sydney, billed as self-financing, had a \$2.3 billion deficit. The Nagano games are described as being paid off by future generations.

In the original 2004 Athens Olympic bid, Greece estimated that the Olympics would cost \$1 billion dollars. They ended up costing at least \$9 billion.

The claim that there are long-term economic benefits doesn’t ring true. In the state of Utah, the average job growth for the Olympic impact period was 37 per cent less than the pre-Olympic period. And Professor Frank Atkins, University of Calgary economist stated that the Calgary Olympics “did not present a measurable long-term [economic] impact.”

5. The Olympics: Privatize the Profits; Socialize the Losses

Senator John McCain, Republican Senator from the State of Arizona, said, “It’s (the Olympics) got to do with land swaps, exchanging worthless land for valuable land, wealthy developers, and the enrichment of billionaires.”

In 1900 and 1904, the games were attached to trade fairs. Governments saw sports as an avenue for commercial gain. And more recently, prior to the Sydney Olympics, the World Economic Forum was held in Melbourne.

Corporatization of the Olympics accelerated after 1983. Professional athletes were allowed to compete, and the Olympic logo was allowed to be associated with corporations. This change in Olympic policy opened the market floodgates. As a result selling the corporate sponsorship rights to the Games has become big business. At the Sydney Olympics, fifty student lawyers were hired as “T-shirt police” to ensure that only corporate logos bought and paid for were displayed in venues. In 2002, the IOC came under fire because uniforms for torchbearers were made in Burma - a country known for routinely using forced labour in factories. The Olympics are frequently sponsored by multi-nationals like Nike and Shell, companies with terrible environmental and human rights records.

Locally, the Olympics are strongly supported by developers and construction companies. Both Jack Poole and the former-chair of the VOTE YES plebiscite committee are prominent local developers - the people who will profit from the real estate booms, and increase in housing and rental costs that will surround the Games. Public money will undoubtedly be spent on costly highway upgrades and the rapid transit line to the airport.

As an Olympic host city, we are one of the fronts of the opposition movement. We must join our sister bid cities in the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation and say NO! to the Olympics. We must be part of a broader international movement, called for by The Anti-Olympic Alliance in Sydney, to expose the role of the Olympics industry in urban displacement, privatization of public space, displacement of indigenous peoples, and increasing profits for the rich.

Saying NO! to the Olympics means saying no to nationalism and militarism, to political repression, to racism, to corporate greed, and to the suppression of indigenous rights.

RESOURCES AND WEBLINKS

- No One is Illegal - noii-van.resist.ca
- 2010watch.com
- www.no2010.com
- www.olympicwatch.org
- www.lib.sfu.ca/researchhelp/subjectguides/rem/olympics2010.htm#background
- Impact on Community Coalition: vcn.bc.ca/ioc
- www.gamesmonitor.org.uk
- www.helsinki.fi/~vholmber/antiolympia/inaogcs.html
- www.olympicwatch.org
- www.wombles.org.uk/topics/2012olympics

Photos: Tens of thousands of people packed a Seattle sports stadium April 13th to hear the Dalai Lama call for nonviolence and to make the 21st century a “century of dialogue.” REUTERS/Marcus R. Donner (USA)

Pro-democracy protesters and human rights activists display a plastic Olympic torch while chanting slogans during the Olympic torch relay in Hong Kong May 2nd. The poster reads “Fulfill the Olympic promise. Human rights and Olympics in China.” REUTERS/Claro Cortes IV (CHINA)



Dear Couz,

article & photos by Jennifer Hastie

Hi Couz:

Most of Victoria seemed unaware of a huge gathering in the Empress Conference Centre in mid-March, put on annually by the Association of Friendship Centres for their youth. I was there, Couz, volunteering at the Native Youth Conference, and what a week it was!

I was very surprised to see that over 700 youths (teens to mid-20s) came from all over Canada during their spring break. They attended workshops all day long, workshops designed to give them information about employment, self esteem issues and sports training. Yes, Couz, there was fun stuff for them at the end of the day too. At the beginning and the end of the 4 day conference there were ceremonies and speakers to listen to.

From my stand-point—I was mostly roving around and sitting in on various venues- -I found the youth to be quiet, orderly and respectful. It was impressive! The organization of this Conference was impressive too, for behind these youth were chaperones responsible for small groups. A 1-to-5 ratio was suggested in the Friendship Centre’s guidelines for the tribes who sent youth down to the conference.

Important people came to give speeches, Couz, representatives from all government levels as well as native leaders like Stuart Phillip, from the Penticton area, Ed John, from up north, and Shawn Atleo, from the Nuu-chah-nulth tribes. Even our Lieutenant-Governor, Steven Point, came to talk! As well, there were role models from the Native community, some who have made an international impact in sports and leadership.

I volunteered to help out at this conference, Couz, so that I could hear these provincial leaders address the youth. Their speeches were incredibly inspiring, even to someone my age, someone who has been able to escape coping with most of the problems that native peoples have been subjected to in their lives.

All of the speakers had similar words of wisdom to give to the youth. Stuart Phillip outlined his own personal struggle that he had to overcome before he found direction to lead his peoples. He encouraged the youth to work on their own struggles, because “pain will hold you back.”

Ed John gave a short, concentrated history of native issues in B.C. He pointed out that there are 203 First Nations in B.C. He reminded us of the devastating effects of the Residential School system. Ed’s message to the youth was that they can be “part of the problem or part of the solution.”

Shawn Atleo pointed out how much things have changed since the 1940s, when his great grandfather fought in World War II and yet no native tribe was allowed by law to hire a lawyer at that time.

I was blown away by the respect that each leader showed for the youth as they talked to them. All the speakers had one main message for the youth: Be proud of who you are.

The Honourable Steven Point’s speech showed that respect, as he eloquently told a Native legend that he had learned as a child. He used the legend to point out that drugs and alcohol can kill. He also stressed to the youth that they can rise above such a lifestyle. They can choose, he reminded them. Their strength will come from the elders and the stories. At the end of his speech he thanked the youth for listening to him.

You know, Couz, as I was listening to these speeches it became apparent to me how much the natives emphasize the importance of the group and the importance of supporting people within the group. Many of us non-natives in mainstream society are continually criticizing our justice system because the rights of the accused--the individual--take precedence over

the rights of society--the group. Don’t you and I always gripe about this when someone who has committed a crime is allowed to be free on bail or gets to go on probation?

The speakers at the Conference were stressing the importance of caring for each other and supporting each other. If we support one another, then our groups are ultimately strengthened. Couz, if we truly cared about one another, our community would become a whole lot safer because we’d be looking out for one another, even if we didn’t know them. Then you and I might be less worried about our safety. We could begin again to realize that a stranger is only that, a stranger. Surely, we have not lost our ability to use common sense to assess others. I hope that we haven’t lost our ability to reach out to someone in distress.

There were a couple of things that bothered me during the week of the conference, Couz. One was the very disrespectful way that I was treated by an Empress Hotel security person. You see, I had been told to contact the office of their Security and had got confused on the way, not following directions properly. When I asked another security official about the directions, he was obviously irked at my (supposed) stupidity, brushing me out of the way, not even waiting to make sure that I understood what he had said. What gives him the right to brush me aside like that, especially when I have been told to report something?

I was surprised. I simply have not been treated like this UNLESS I represent a Native organization. No, Couz, it’s not just a coincidence. It has happened to me too many times, first, when I worked for the natives and now, when I am volunteering. Is this how native people get treated by mainstream society? I think so.

Something else, too, Couz. Eagerly waiting to read a write-up in our local newspaper about the Youth Conference, I was very disappointed to see only a small article about it in the Times-Colonist. The writer of the article had obviously only briefly covered this event. Unfortunately, the reporter zeroed in on the rather crude reference that Ed John made to “hickeys” (even the youth didn’t think that the remark was funny) at the beginning of his speech. The reporter totally ignored the substance of his excellent speech, and no other speeches were commented upon in that article.

Just what sort of an impression will the public get from that writer’s coverage of this impressive conference? How can the public learn about native issues when such an article is all that is written in the mainstream paper? When will people learn that native issues are not going to fade away? When will they learn that native peoples have much to teach us, about respect, about social and emotional support of each other, and about justice for all peoples?

Jennifer and her husband live in Victoria today. She is a healthy, active senior who enjoys writing volunteer articles for various publications.



The Best Colony on Earth?

by C’daoim

I was truly caught off guard the other day. I don’t watch much television and this is an example of why. I saw a commercial that told me “James Douglas read a Proclamation that put a name to the best place on earth.” Before I finished the first shake of my head I shuddered to imagine what First Nations People, anthropologists, and archaeologists thought about that. I went and got myself a copy of the Proclamation.

It’s colonialism they were talking about; we are celebrating 150 years of colonialism. The place already had names that were given by the original occupants of the lands, and also a European name on top of that. Colonialism is an inappropriate thing to celebrate partly because we still haven’t lived up to certain parts of the deals our ancestors made with the First Nations Peoples.

So if we are celebrating the reading of the Proclamation let’s have a look at what else we are celebrating according to this Proclamation of 1858 entitled “An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia” dated “2d August 1858.” It wasn’t read until Nov. 19th 1858 at Fort Langley.

Page one of the document states “and it is desirable to make some temporary Provision for the Civil Government of such Territories, until permanent Settlements shall be thereupon established, and the Number of Colonists increased...” (Pg 1 Victoria).

Then, in Section 1 it sets the boundaries of British Columbia. Section 2 allows the Queen to appoint a Governor of British Columbia and this person, James Douglas, will “make Provision for the Administration of Justice...Laws, Institutions and Ordinances...for the Peace, Order and good Government of Her Majesty’s Subjects and others therein...” (Pg 3 Victoria). The “others therein” becomes an interesting statement because within 12 years of this reading it would be recognized that 25,000 of the 37,000 residents of British Columbia were First Nations Peoples and they were not given a voice in what was happening.

Some of the newsworthy items not mentioned in the Proclamation, or the commercial for that matter, are that things were getting crazy in British Columbia due to the gold found in the Fraser Valley. The 1858 gold rush brought thousands of Americans north to seek their fortune. The idea of American annexation created fear for the British. James Douglas requested warships and military forces from Britain and make the decision to create a new colony.

There was in “...Victoria [a] Mr. John Nugent, the newly arrived ‘Special Agent of the United States,’ charged with looking after American interests north of the 49th parallel” (Pg 135 Akrigg and Akrigg). This was a very similar scenario of what had happened when “Special Agent of the United States” Thomas Oliver Larkin “conspired with American residents to take California from Mexico” (Pg 135 Akrigg).

First Nations Peoples had big problems with the Americans because of the fact that the land was theirs and the Americans did not respect the First Nations Peoples or their land. It began when Americans started murdering and robbing them of food stocks and committing more horrid crimes. Douglas quashed the American aggression, but he also stole these same lands from the First Nations Peoples.

The First Nations People were less important to the British than the land and the resources. The Proclamation states that “...after the passing of this Act...British Columbia, and the islands adjacent, [will be used] for Mining and other purposes...” (Pg 1 Victoria). The First Nations were not consulted in the creation of the new colony British Columbia. We still haven’t dealt with them fairly over land issues.

Of course I realize this situation was era specific and we have no real choice but to understand it in the terms and conditions that were prevalent at the time, but we do not have to continue to accept the actions of the past just because they happened. Colonialism has become a dirty word in the 21st century, but apparently we are going to celebrate it here in British Columbia. If we are truly celebrating the European name given to the colony, it already had a European name - New Caledonia. It wasn’t an officially recognized colony at that time, yet that may be difficult to explain to the First Nations Peoples.

Become informed...society needs you.

Works Cited:

Akrigg G.P.V. and Helen B. Akrigg. British Columbia 1847-1871 Chronicle Gold and Colonists. Vancouver, British Columbia: Discovery Press 1977

Victoria. Queen 21/22 Chap.XCIX An Act to Provide for the Government of British Columbia. 1858





Taken From Us

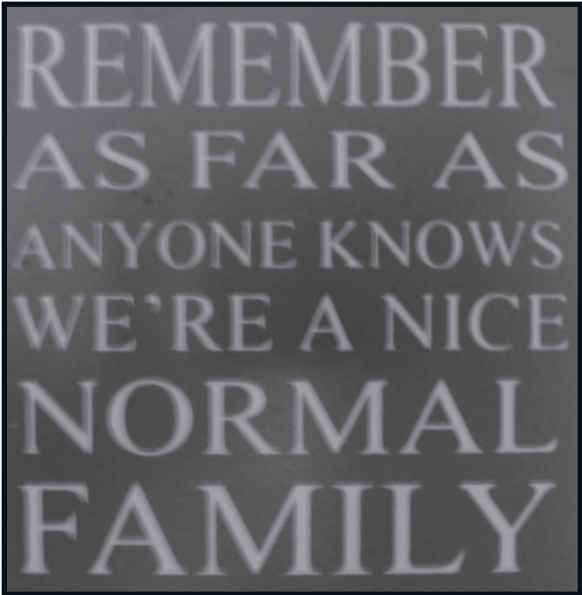
*As you lay down the highway of tears  
My feet walk upon the bones of your ancestors  
As the stars fall out of the sky  
And the moon refuses to shine*

*As your bodies are slain and nothing is done  
As your bodies are stolen and nothing is done  
The tears of the highway continue to run*

*As spring begins we remember the war on women  
We remember the First Nations who were murdered and forgotten  
As the red blood runs  
As the abused earth bleeds  
For her Mothers who were taken  
killed and forgotten*

*Laying in the sweet grass and  
Covered by the red earth  
Unburdened now they lay down  
and we send prayers weeping  
As we remember the strong and the brave  
Who were taken from us  
As we live on this sacred land  
and feed upon the love of truth.*

© Penelope Shafer - May 2008



I'm a hypocrite

I can't help it.  
I march and shout,  
"Free Tibet, Don't Buy China"  
yet the box my TV came in  
says it's made there.

I'm a hypocrite  
keep on ingesting it.  
There's no use for it  
yet there's a rhythm to it  
and it smells like shit.

I try a bit  
then succumb to it.  
I buy it anyway  
because it's Sunday  
and the stores  
are open 'til ten.

I'm a hypocrite  
keep on ingesting it.  
There's no use for it  
yet there's a rhythm to it  
and it smells like shit.

I've consumer clout.  
How effective is it?  
Others suffer while I eat my supper.  
The guilt can crush a guy.  
I've had enough of it.

I'm a hypocrite  
keep on ingesting it.  
There's no use for it  
yet there's a rhythm to it.  
Still smells like shit.

There's no end to it.  
I'm one small part of it.  
How can I live with it?  
I'm such a hypocrite.

© Robert Thompson



Woman Warrior in Ribbons and Bows

I am a woman warrior in ribbons and bows  
from the top of my head to the tip of my toes.  
Make no mistake, I am loving and kind  
but deeply inside is where my truth shines.  
I will stand by the men on a battle line staked  
and fight to the death for my People's sake.  
I give birth to my children and care for the others  
offer love and support to Grandfathers and Mothers.  
I can be pretty and sweet in my ribbons and bows  
but never mistake, I'm a warrior who knows  
that the path I am called to brings trials and tears  
conflicts that call for pure strength and no fears.  
Respect me and honor me is all that I ask,  
carrying love for all People is a burdensome task.  
Few honors and glories are earned on this path,  
standing your ground brings out the best or the wrath  
of those on the sidelines who jeer or they mock  
instead of supporting the strong ones who walk.  
I am a woman warrior in ribbons and bows  
loving her People while attacking their foes.  
Make no mistake as you look in my eyes  
I speak only truth and I tell you no lies.  
I am a woman warrior in ribbons and bows  
from the top of my head to the tip of my toes.

© Shelley Bluejay Pierce - August 17, 2006

The Gray Day

The gray day held us captive  
Like the way war holds a country hostage  
to its plight  
Picking off its children one by one  
Their ashes sown into the moist air  
To later rain down retribution for the thought  
It is OK to dedicate our children  
Just because we think we can win  
In a place where boys strap bombs  
to their bodies  
And look to heaven for salvation  
We tout our moral superiority  
Like angels who think they're  
on top of the world  
While children go on killing children  
Theirs and ours -- all heroes to a cause  
The roulette of war a measure of our foolishness  
To beliefs written in blood  
In the name of something or other  
Peace or religion or revenge or civilization  
On and on the words flow  
Justification a matter of explanation  
If only we knew what else to do  
Maybe if the stones would cry out redress  
Or the earth spew torrents of fire  
Boil the seas like before we were here  
Then we might understand the harm done  
When we made war a normal everyday affair  
Dressing our children in uniforms  
Giving them toy soldiers for Christmas  
And leaving them to die alone  
Far away, far away from home  
While we here stay captive to the day  
Once again to repeat the errors of the past

© Judy Sigmund



**H&C**  
HEMP & COMPANY


547 Johnson Street  
383-4367  
422 Craigflower Road  
412-0880  
www.hempandcompany.com

Your source for quality hemp clothing,  
and funky forward thinking fashion.

574b Johnson Street  
385-7443  
www.shiftfashion.ca

**SHIFT**  
NATURAL FASHION

**Sophisticated  
Dentistry  
For the  
Sensitive  
Patient**



**DR DEANNA  
GEDDO DDS**  
#404-645 Fort St.  
250-389-0669



James Christian  
B.S.C. (Herbal Medicine), MNIMH, RH  
Medical Herbalist

Victoria, BC 250-920-8351  
medicalherbalist@yahoo.ca  
askaherbalist.ca

CASCADIA MASSAGE THERAPY

www.cascadiamassagetherapy.com



DAVID BAROFF, RMT

1857 Fairburn Drive  
Victoria, BC V8N 1P8  
(250) 472-2016

**SANDBOX  
HAULING**

Andrew Ainsley  
208-8868  
sandboxproductions@gmail.com

North Park BICYCLE SHOP

386 BIKES

1725 Quadra



**Denise Savoie**  
Member of Parliament for Victoria

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE:  
970 Blanshard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 2H3

TELEPHONE: 363-3600  
E-MAIL: Savoie.d@parl.gc.ca  
ON THE WEB: www.denisesavoie.ca

*Your voice in Ottawa*

Victoria  
Street Newz  
June circulation: 2000

 teachings and retreats

\* Deep relaxation \* \* Meditation \*  
\* Spiritual videos \* \* Discussion \*

Wednesdays, 7 pm SHARP  
Donation \$5

Bring a pillow & light blanket

James Bay New Horizons  
234 Menzies St.

Info: OpenDharmaBC@yahoo.com  
(250) 360-0052  
www.OpenDharmaCanada.org

**VICTORIA'S 3RD  
ANNUAL ANARCHIST  
BOOKFAIR AND THE  
FESTIVAL OF ANARCHY**

For anarchists and non-anarchists, with participants from all over North America and beyond.

**September 13 & 14th**

At the Downtown Community Activity Centre of the Victoria Cool Aid Society - 755 Pandora St., Victoria.

We seek to introduce anarchism to the public, to further elaborate upon current and historical anarchist ideals and to foster dialogue between various anarchist tendencies. The events include book and information tables, workshops, readings, films, presentations, and much more.

We are currently seeking workshop and presentation proposals relating to anarchism and anti-authoritarian, indigenous or anarchist-supported struggles, alternative economic strategies and other anarchist related topics including classical anarchism, syndicalism, labour, feminism, anti-racism, anti-colonialism, resistance, solidarity, media, communications, animal rights, gender issues, health, poverty, art, non-violence, ecology, natural and sustainable building, cultural diversity, urban and self-reliant agriculture, co-operatives and the social economy, transportation alternatives, music distribution, bookbinding & selfpublishing, bookstores, dumpster diving and foraging, post-industrial society, and local exchange trading systems.

Please read our statements of principles before contacting us to request a table (by July 1st).

**victoriaanarchistbookfair.ca**  
**tables@**  
**victoriaanarchistbookfair.ca**

**Central America Support Committee**

CASC

Join us first Wednesday of every month;  
7:30 PM upstairs at 1923 Fernwood Road  
Email: casc@telus.net  
Phone: 598-7690  
Web: http://casc.communitypipe.org/

 **Café Simpatico**  
Victoria's Activist Coffeehouse  
598-7690 • 1923 Fernwood Road

Fair trade organic coffee  
available by the cup or pound



Our Office is Open to Serve You



Community Office  
1084 Fort Street, Victoria  
P: (250) 952-4211  
F: (250) 952-4586  
carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca  
www.opposition.bc.ca

**Carole James, MLA**  
Victoria - Beacon Hill

Victoria's Campus and Community Radio

**CFUV**

**101.9 FM**

**cfuv.uvic.ca**

Music | Spoken Word | Multicultural | Public Affairs

**Tony's Trailers**

**Bike trailers  
for every person &  
purpose**

766 Handy Road,  
Mill Bay  
(250) 743-9915  
tonysttrailers.com




**\$10**

**RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE**

Carole James and the Opposition believe it's time to give B.C.'s lowest-paid workers a raise.

Learn more, read the legislation, and sign the petition at:  
[www.opposition.bc.ca/en/minimumwage](http://www.opposition.bc.ca/en/minimumwage)



1020 Hillside Avenue  
Victoria, V8T 2A3  
Ph.: 250 360 2023  
rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca  
www.opposition.bc.ca

**Rob Fleming, MLA**  
Victoria - Hillside